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**Letter from the National Capital.**  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 5th, 1866.  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE PRESS:  
The second session of the Thirty-Ninth Congress is in the third day of its sittings. Probably as many amendments will be introduced as in the first session.

of the two bodies. At any rate I am inclined to think myself able to give some clear conceptions of the opinions prevalent here.

**THE TEMPER OF CONGRESS.**

So far as the majority of the House is concerned, the "Dough" is much less in amount than it was at the last session. Thaddeus Stevens, however, still declares there is quite too much of the article named, for his use. It is however quite certain that members return with a firmness and determination rarely witnessed among so large a body of men. This

is especially true of the Western men. Nearly all of them are ready for any measures that may be deemed necessary to preserve the nation from any more demonstrations of usurpation and anarchy. The Pennsylvania members are equally radical. So in the main are the Ohio men. The New Englanders seem more cautious. Like true reformers they stand waiting to criticize all measures where-with it is proposed to build the consummation. Gov. Boutwell is on matters of political import the *avant garde* of New England's delegations.

Mr. Morrill is of course the leader, not only of New England, but of the House, on matters of revenue, tariff, &c.

That wonderful "old man eloquent"—Thaddeus Stevens—seems to have renewed his intellectual youth. Like the fabled antique hero, who when he fell in combat upon the earth—his mother—was healed of his wounds and went again to fight with fresh life, Mr. Stevens goes back to the people to find him renewed in intellect, purpose and will, from out their exhaustless store. To-day he is as

man, simply such, possessed of more power and more honor than any other in the nation. In the House he controls more than ever before. Time, which makes all things even, proves him self nearest the true method of solving the reconstruction problem. Mr. Stevens is understood to sustain:—

- 1st. The continuance of the Joint Committee of Fifteen on Reconstruction.
- 2d. The raising of a committee to prepare articles of impeachment, or at least to investigate the grounds assigned for the action. Gov.

34. The passage of Mr. William's (Pa.) bill providing for the manner in which removals from office can be made and restricting the holding of position by persons rejected of the Senate. This bill is a sweeping measure, prettily effectually curbing the present custom

4th. He is of course favorable to the passage of a measure looking to the reorganization of the unrepresented States. Also of a modified confiscation act. The passage of a bill providing for the recognition of the represented States as the only ones competent to pass upon amendments to the Constitution, meets, of course, with his approval.

These are the main questions which will be discussed at the caucus. Indications are not wanting that the Senate will not as heartily

respond to them as the House. Already the dignity of the smaller body is aroused because the Representatives have taken the initiative in offering measures calculated to curb Executive corruption and prevent the destruction of the Senate's prerogatives as the confirming body in the appointing power. The caucus will be very animated and earnest, but in it the radicals are sure to carry the day.

RANGERS AGAINST "MY POLICY."

The House repealed on the first day the thirteenth section of a law passed in '62, under

which it is considered by some the President derives the right he is now exercising of pardoning rebels and restoring property before conviction. It is claimed that this section confers this power, though others affirm it is in the Constitution. The Senate however do not seem disposed to press the measure as the House. Mr. Chandler of Michigan undertook to engineer it. In the course of a spirited discussion to-day he declared that it was a matter of public notoriety, as well known and verified as the records of a court, that par-

There is a prevalent belief existing that Mr. Johnson is about to issue another proclamation of general amnesty and restoration. This is one reason for the haste of the House in re-considering the question alluded to. Inding from

Mr. Trumbull's remarks the bill will be reported to the Senate to-morrow. It will undoubtedly pass though Reverdy Johnson will doubtless oppose. The Border State men and the Democrats will not be likely to oppose it very strenuously.

**ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY.**

There is a general fear among members that Mr. Seward is endeavoring to embroil us with France on Mexican matters, while there is a strong suspicion that there may be a secret understanding existing between ex-rebel leaders

ers and the French Emperor, by which the former are to add such a diversion as a war would be for "My policy," by another outbreak. The tone is decidedly in opposition to any foreign difficulty. Should such arise, owing to any unauthorized action of the Executive, there will be little doubt that Congress will cut off the supplies and so stop the attempt.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

I notice your members are in their seats.—Mr. Blaine, whom we missed toward the close

of last session, is on hand, while his quondam antagonist, Mr. Conkling, has not yet graced the House with his handsome pulchritude. Mr. Lynch is, as ever, constant in his seat, busy and attentive to all business. Few districts have as careful and attentive representatives. To-day it was noticed and commented upon that Mr. Fessenden and Mr. Seward had long conference in the Senate cloak room. It was certainly worthy of note that when the Secretary of State entered the Chamber where so long he was an honored member, not only Seward rose to greet him, but also the

Doolittle, who is in his place as arrogant looking as ever. Mr. Seward looks remarkably well, considering all he has passed through, though the lines and expression of his face are harder and more mysterious than of old. Mr. Walter, of the London Times, needs no introduction. He is a leading Republican statesman, politician and journalist last night, at a reception banquet given by Col. Forney in his honor. This is esteemed a noteworthy point, that the only reception given him here should be by the radical leader of the press.—Mr. Walter is a pleasant looking gentleman of middle age and is wearing the usual comfortable and comfortable travelling dress of a man of his class. His expression is by the

The proprietor of the Times is evidently very friendly disposed and greatly impressed by the remarkable progress of the United States. His speech at the supper was quite pleasant and in kind in tone and manner. He was, as usual, made one of his happy allusions to England and the lady who reigns there, while Gen. Howard spoke effectively of his hope of permanent peace at home and abroad. The General is looking very well indeed. His report has not yet been published, though presented to Congress. It is a very interesting document. There was considerable amusement and interest aroused by the "chiffing" by various persons of the day.

connected with Presidential nominations. It is certain that public attention is widely and favorably directed towards the chief of the Freedmen's Bureau. His lofty integrity, spotless valor, and proved ability, with the consummate skill with which he has held on to his strong position for good against all intrigues, and that too without abatement of conscience, hope or purpose, all tend to make him deservedly prominent. SPECTATOR.











